

ARJSL
R

CAS Report Supplement I

December 1977

Additional information on the situation of
Argentine scientists and university professors

Jorge Taiana, former professor of the Medicine School of Buenos Aires University, former Minister of Culture and Education in 1973-74, held in the La Plata jail without trial since March 1976.

Ernesto Villanueva, a sociologist, former Rector of Buenos Aires University, held in the La Plata jail without trial for the last three years, was arrested in October 1974.

Oscar Moretti, former professor of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, held without trial since 1974 in terrible conditions, had two pneumothorax operations in jail.

Emilio de Ipola, a sociologist of the Latinamerican School of Social Sciences (which moved this year from Buenos Aires to Mexico City) held in jail without trial together with his wife since 4.13.76.

Mauricio López, former Rector of the National University at San Luis, former professor of the Methodist Theological Seminary at the City of Mendoza, kidnapped on 1.1.77, his arrest was afterwards announced, held without trial.

Alfredo Bravo, leader of the Confederación de Trabajadores de la Educación de la República Argentina (CTERA) a union of grade and high school teachers, kidnapped in August, his arrest was afterwards announced, held without trial.

Ignacio Ikonikof, a physicist who worked as a science journalist, former editor of the "Ciencia Nueva" magazine, former member of the leadership of the journalists union, kidnapped with his wife María Bedohian on 6.25.77.

Liliana Galletti, Bachelor in History, 30, former professor of Universidad Nacional de La Plata, former career researcher of the National Research Council, member of the leadership of Comisión Argentina de Derechos Humanos (a human rights group), kidnapped by military at the beginning of 1977.

María Isabel Giménez, age around 40, has a degree in Electrical Engineering, professor of Mathematics and Dean of the Tucumán branch of the National Technological University in 1973 and 1974, kept her job of Mathematics professor until she was kidnapped in June 1977.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

Mario Tempone, former Director of the School of Architecture of Buenos Aires University, kidnapped with his wife on 9.5.77.

Carlos Versavsky, has a Ph.D. in Physics from University of Colorado, former professor of Buenos Aires University and former Director of the National Radioastronomy Institute, Director of Research and Development of ALUAR (a metallurgical company), forced to emigrate under threats.

Angel Pisarello, former professor of the Law School at Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, acted as defence attorney for political prisoners, kidnapped and murdered around May. 1977. His body was found with signs of having been burned alive with a gas torch.

Luis Monteiro, doctor in Mathematics, age around 38, Full Professor of Mathematics at Universidad Nacional del Sur, fired in 1974, got a job at Universidad de La Pampa (a local state university), arrested and held without trial from November 1975 until April 1976, fired from his job, unable to get a teaching job now works in a gas company at the city of Bahía Blanca.

The legal situation of the dismissed university teachers:

The mass dismissals at the universities began in September 1974 and have included even some Emeritus Professors, as in the case of professor Antonio Monteiro, of the Universidad Nacional del Sur at Bahía Blanca (now in exile). Dr. Alberto Mario Mariscotti, Physics Professor at the Science School of Buenos Aires University, is to our knowledge the only one who attempted to be reinstated through legal action, arguing that a university teacher could not be dismissed by a purely administrative procedure and that an academic trial was required. The Supreme Court appointed by the Junta rejected his case around August 1977.

The situation of scientific associations:

The Asociación Física Argentina (Argentine Physical Society) has ceased operations since mid 1976 after the departure of its President, Dr. Juan Mignacco, who left for Brazil. The number of physicists in Argentina has decreased considerably because of emigration caused by dismissals and low salaries.

The situation at universities and research institutes and the unions:

University unions, which included mostly the non teaching staff, have practically ceased to exist as a result of repression, since

the Junta took power. A law passed by the Junta almost immediately after seizing power outlaws all "agitation or proselytism" in the universities, including union "agitation" or proselytism. Strikes have been outlawed and strikers may get up to ten years in prison. Unions also existed at some non-university research laboratories such as the Atomic Energy Commission and the National Agriculture and Cattle Breeding Institute. Although unions have not been banned in these institutions the dismissals and sometimes arrests of the union activists have liquidated all union activity.

The liquidation of union activities and the government policy of denying salary increases in the midst of a 150% yearly inflation has caused mass resignations of teaching and non teaching personnel of the universities, the state research institutes and of the technical personnel of state enterprises and state agencies.

According to information published in the Buenos Aires newspaper "La Opinión" around March Buenos Aires University had some five hundred jobs of non teaching personnel which had been left available by resignations and which could not be filled because of lack of candidates. Another information published in August reported that one fourth of the four hundred non teaching jobs at the School of Economics had been left available through resignations and that the library was operating with half its normal staff.

Salaries of the teaching and research personnel are also low both at universities and state research institutes. According to information published in the Mexican newspaper "El Día" the Atomic Energy Commission was offering a job for a biochemist or biologist at a salary of 40000 pesos (some eighty dollars) while ads published in the Buenos Aires newspapers were offering twice as much for a maidservant. In December Economics Minister José Alfredo Martínez de Hoz announced the budget for 1978, which intends further budget cuts for the Atomic Energy Commission, which may already have lost more than half of its professional staff.

Mass resignations of technical personnel have also been reported — at the state oil enterprise (Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales), the state railways, the National Board of Statistics, etc.

Although the situation of Argentine university teachers, scientists and research workers has generally not been good over the last few years, we believe that it has never before reached the catastrophic depths in which it is now.

The situation in the social sciences:

Social scientists have been particularly hard hit, because of the dismissals; because of the massive suppression of university courses in areas such as sociology, political science, economics,

anthropology, psychology, etc., which were supposed to be a breeding ground for "subversive elements", and because the atmosphere of hostility created by the Junta against the social sciences has also affected the private institutions which supported research in this area. As a result of this hostile atmosphere, the Di Tella Foundation, which used to support of the order of some fifty researchers is now supporting five or six.

Most of the bibliography available in the social sciences has disappeared because of the closing down of the Siglo XXI publishing house, probably the largest publishing house in the social sciences in Spanish, and the destruction of 150000 copies of books that this publishing enterprise had in storage, including books by Chomsky, Bettelheim, Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, Rodolfo Stavenhagen, Pablo González Casanova, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Vania Bambirra, and other well known Latinamerican social scientists.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BAHIA BLANCA TRIAL

The accused are under the jurisdiction of Federal Judge (Juez Federal) Guillermo Federico Madueño. The Judge's office is located at the Palacio de Tribunales, Bahía Blanca, Argentina. The last information we have about the trial is the confirmation of preventive imprisonment for six of the accused by the Federal Court of Appeals (Cámara Federal) of the city of Bahía Blanca, on June 2nd, 1977.

As the preventive imprisonment has been decreed and confirmed, the trial will necessarily enter the "plenario" stage (trial itself, after preliminary inquest). This implies the following steps: 1) presentation of the state's attorney accusation; 2) presentation of the defence case; 3) presentation of proofs; 4) summing up; 5) passing of judge's sentence.

It should be clear that the defence is just a formal affair, because it is not possible to think that the accused will have a due legal trial, because the result of the trial will be what the Junta decides that it should be, because there is no independence of the judiciary, particularly in the Federal branch, which has jurisdiction in cases with political implications, and because regulations passed by the Junta drastically reduce the power of the judges increasing the power of the police and the Armed Forces: for instance a regulation passed by the Junta makes it compulsory for the judges to accept "confessions" from the accused obtained by the police and the Armed Forces during the preliminary inquest (instrucción del juicio), while before any such confessions or proofs had to be confirmed by the accused in front of the judge. "Confessions" are obtained by the police through torture. To this

Curriculum vitae of Mario Arnaldo Usabiaga

Born in Argentina 7.11.35, obtained Bachelor degree in Literature of Universidad Nacional del Sur in 1963 and the "Profesor" title (a kind of teaching certificate that requires one year of courses) of the same university in 1966.

Teaching activities: Assistant of the Humanities Department of the Universidad Nacional del Sur 1965-1970. Professor of Literature at Universidad Veracruzana at Jalapa, México, 1970-71. Director, Center for Literature Research, Universidad Veracruzana, 1972. Professor of Literature, Universidad Nacional del Sur, 1973-74. Director, Institute for Third World Studies, Universidad Nacional del Sur, 1974-75.

Publications: several articles on literary style analysis in "Cuadernos del Sur" and "La Palabra y el Hombre" (literary magazine of the Universidad Veracruzana). Critical essays on Rulfo, Puig, Borges, Carpentier, García Márquez, Rosa Bastos and other authors in "La Palabra y el Hombre", revista UNAM (magazine of the National University of Mexico), "Texto Crítico" (Jalapa, Mexico), Revista Universitaria (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and Yearbook of the Universidad Veracruzana. Review of "The semantics of literature" by T. Eaton in "Cuadernos del Sur". Article on "Lectura de producción literaria y producción social" in "Siempre" (México).

Translations and introductory notes on writings of Umberto Eco in "Plural" and "La Palabra y el Hombre", and on writings on literary theory by P. Delbouille, E. Dupriez and M. Rifaterre.

List of signatures on the letter to the United Nations
Human Rights Committee protesting the Bahía Blanca trial

MEXICO:

University Rectors: Manuel Rivera Terrazas, Universidad Autónoma de Puebla; Arquímides Morales, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero; Eduardo Franco, Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa.

Center for Research and Advance Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute: Samuel Gitler (National Science Prize). Enrique Ramírez de Arellano, Eduardo Llerenas, Lilia Albert and thirty more signatures.

National University: Manuel Peimbert, Manuel Pérez Rocha, Carlos Pereyra, Jaime Labastida, Rubén Barrera, Silvia Torres, Vania Bambirra, and some sixty more signatures.

Colegio de México: Rodolfo Stavenhagen and Lourdes Arizpe.

National Institute of Astrophysics, Electronics and Optics:
Guillermo Haro (National Science Prize).

UNITED STATES:

Paul Samuelson, Economics Nobel Prize; George Wald and J.E. Luria, Medicine Nobel Prizes; Noam Chomsky, Daniel Bell, Victor Weisskopf, Philip Morrison, B. Magasanik, Robert Solow, Barbara Solow, Morris Halle and Raymond Siever (all from Harvard and MIT).

ON THE CASE OF PROFESSOR MARIO TEMPONE

Professor Mario Tempone was kidnapped in Buenos Aires at the beginning of September. Attempts to find him in police stations or Army barracks have been unsuccessful, and equally an habeas corpus writ presented on his behalf.

He was born in Buenos Aires on April 12, 1937. He was awarded a Prize for "Composición Arquitectónica" (Architectural Design) together with his Architecture degree from Buenos Aires University in 1957. He worked in research in new construction methods and in regional development plans at Buenos Aires University and other state agencies. He was Full Professor of Housing Construction and Director of the Center for Research on Housing Programs and of the Department of Construction Science, at Buenos Aires University and academic adviser of the Architecture School of the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. He was fired from his academic jobs in 1975.

(This information is from a letter of Ms. Annemarie Fellmann, Limmattalstr. 110, 8049 Zürich, published in the Mexican magazine "Proceso" of 11.28.77 p.64).

The case of Ignacio Ikonikof

Ignacio Ikonikof, who has a degree in Physics from Buenos Aires University, specialized in Oceanography, and carries an honoris causa degree from the University of Paris awarded in 1969, is one of the very few science journalists in Argentina. He was science editor of the newspaper "La Opinión" and editor of the science magazine "Ciencia Nueva", which is one of the two science magazines published in Spanish. He was active in the professional union of journalists (Asociación de Periodistas de Buenos Aires, of which many members have been kidnapped and assassinated). He was kidnapped on June 25 together with his wife María Bedohian, in their Buenos Aires home, leaving unprotected their three years old daughter.

As in the case of other kidnapped physicists, there might be an element of Antisemitism in his case. Repression by the paramilitary and parapolice gangs encouraged or tolerated by the Junta tends to be more vicious with Jews or Catholics married to Jews, which is the case of Ignacio and his wife, and was also the case of Federico Alvarez Rojas and Hilda Leikis and of Eduardo Pasquini and Lilliana Misraijchi. We are asking all scientific organizations to show their solidarity against this new crime of the Argentine government and to ask General Videla that Ikonikof and his wife be immediately released.

This information is published by Comisión Argentina de Solidaridad, Apartado 19-052, México 19, D.F., MEXICO.

Help the Comisión Argentina de Solidaridad by sending your check to the above address.